



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Emergency Management

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DISASTER FIELD OFFICE

7401 Timberlake Road

Lynchburg, VA 24502

FEMA-1458-DR-VA

Commonwealth Situation Report #31

Thursday, May 15, 2003

1. OPERATIONAL PERIOD:

12 Noon *Friday, May 9, 2003*, through 12 Noon *Thursday, May 15, 2003* (*New information in bold italics.*)

2. SITUATION:

A major winter storm struck Virginia beginning February 15 causing major flooding in Southwest Virginia and significant ice and snowfall in the Shenandoah Valley and areas of Northern Virginia. The weather pattern continued to bring warmer temperatures, melting snow/ice and more heavy rainfall, which combined to cause more local flooding.

Governor Mark R. Warner declared a State of Emergency on February 16, 2003, to speed state agency assistance and resources to localities in need. The counties of Accomack, Augusta, Buchanan, Dickenson, Essex, Fauquier, Frederick, Highland, Loudoun, Madison, Orange, Russell, Shenandoah, Tazewell, Warren, Wise and Wythe and the cities of Norton, Richmond, Salem and Winchester declared emergencies.

The Governor requested the federal Public Assistance program (PA) on February 28 for snow and/or flooding for the following localities: the counties of Albemarle, Arlington, Bland, Buchanan, Clarke, Craig, Culpeper, Dickenson, Essex, Fairfax, Fauquier, Frederick, Grayson, Greene, Highland, Lee, Louisa, Loudoun, Madison, Orange, Prince William, Rappahannock, Russell, Scott, Shenandoah, Stafford, Spotsylvania, Tazewell, Warren, Wise and Wythe and the cities of Alexandria, Charlottesville, Fairfax, Falls Church, Fredericksburg, Manassas, Manassas Park, Norton, Richmond, Salem and Winchester.

The Governor requested the federal Individual Assistance program (IA) on March 4 for these winter storm events in the counties of Augusta, Buchanan, Dickenson, Fauquier, Frederick, Loudoun, Madison, Montgomery, Prince William, Roanoke including the Town of Vinton, Russell, Shenandoah, Tazewell, Warren, Wise and Wythe and the cities of Norton, Roanoke, Salem and Winchester.

A Major Presidential Disaster Declaration (FEMA-1458-DR-VA) was declared on March 27, 2003. The counties of Buchanan, Dickenson, Montgomery, Russell, Tazewell and Wise and the cities of Norton, Roanoke and Salem were designated for Individual Assistance (IA). Public Assistance (PA) is available for the counties of Arlington, Clarke, Fairfax, Fauquier, Frederick, Highland, Loudoun, Orange and Rappahannock and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church and Winchester. All jurisdictions in the state are eligible to apply for assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). A Disaster Field Office was opened in Lynchburg on March 31, 2003. The hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and closed Saturdays and Sundays. The DFO telephone number is 434-832-8440 and the fax number is 434-832-8544. ***The briefing meetings in the DFO are held Wednesday as follows: Commonwealth (COV) 8:30 a.m.; joint Federal/COV 9 a.m.*** The Department of Homeland Security threat level has been reduced to elevated (yellow).

The Virginia Farm Service Agency (FSA) has made emergency (EM) physical loss loans available to 10 Virginia counties due to blizzard damages that occurred from Feb.15-Feb.18, 2003. Those counties are Amelia, Augusta, Culpeper, Fauquier, Highland, Page, Prince William, Rappahannock, Rockingham and Shenandoah. In addition to the above counties, 25 other Virginia counties/cities were named as contiguous counties/cities where eligible family farmers may qualify for FSA EM physical loss loan assistance. Those Virginia counties/cities are Albemarle, Bath, Chesterfield, Clarke, Cumberland, Dinwiddie, Fairfax, Frederick, Greene, Harrisonburg City, Loudoun, Madison, Manassas City, Manassas Park City, Nelson, Nottoway, Orange, Powhatan, Prince Edward, Rockbridge, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Staunton City, Warren, and Waynesboro City. These loans to Virginia counties/cities may be made available to applicants with a qualifying physical loss in the named counties/cities effective 3/18/03 through 11/18/03.

The following counties and cities were added to the Presidential declaration, FEMA-1458-DR-VA effective April 28, 2003:

Prince William, Shenandoah, and Warren, and the cities of Manassas and Manassas Park, for Public Assistance, Category B. only. (Emergency protective measures for a period of 48 hours)

Appomattox, Buchanan, Craig, Dickerson, Floyd, Halifax, Henry, Lee, Montgomery, Pittsylvania, Scott, Wise, and Wythe Counties and the independent cities of Danville, Norton, Roanoke, and Salem for Public Assistance, all categories.

Lee, Pulaski, and Roanoke Counties for Individual Assistance.

3. WEATHER

Today: Showers and afternoon thunderstorms likely, highs in the upper 60s, south winds 5-10 mph, chance of rain 70 percent. Tonight: Showers likely, with a chance of thunderstorms mainly through the evening, patchy fog late, lows 50-55, south winds 5-10 mph becoming west, chance of rain 60 percent. Friday: Patchy fog early, then mostly cloudy with a chance of showers in the afternoon, highs 70-75, west winds 5-10 mph becoming NE early in the afternoon, chance of rain 30 percent.

4. CURRENT STATE PRIORITIES:

- A. Obtain state sum-sufficient funding for disaster.
- B. Manage expectations of disaster victims.
- C. Increase the percentage of SBA applications returned.
- D. ***Continue*** planning DFO closing.

5. ONGOING ACTIONS/ISSUES:**A. Individual Assistance (IA):****STATE CONTACT: Larry Braja, 434-832-8449***(As of COB 5-14)*

Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA)

Today, May 15, is the last day for applying for unemployment assistance for the originally declared jurisdictions. Applications for DUA for the add-on jurisdictions: Lee, Pulaski, and Roanoke counties will be accepted through May 30, 2003.

There have been 3 applicants. All have been awarded assistance for a total of \$3,300. *No additional claims have been filed since the last report.*

Only those individuals not meeting the requirements for normal unemployment benefits qualify for the Disaster Unemployment Assistance benefits.

Tele-registrations:

(As of COB 5-14)

Tele-Registrations			
Designated Jurisdictions		Undesignated Jurisdictions	
Buchanan Co.	467	Amherst Co.	1
Dickenson Co.	149	Arlington Co.	1
Lee Co.	18	Augusta Co.	2
Montgomery Co.	54	Bedford Co.	3
Pulaski Co.	10	Bland	1
Roanoke Co.	*6	Botetourt Co.	1
Russell Co.	35	Campbell Co	1
Tazewell Co.	45	<i>Dinwiddie</i>	1
Wise Co.	182	Fairfax	1
Norton City	25	Franklin Co.	2
Roanoke City	* 104	Giles Co.	1
Salem City	* 119	Halifax Co.	5
		Henry Co.	2
		Loudoun Co.	1
		Pittsylvania Co.	1
		Prince William Co.	1
		Scott Co.	3
		Spotsylvania Co.	2
		Washington Co.	2
		Wythe	1
Total	1,214	Total	33

*The use of zip codes in the NEMIS does not always accurately differentiate actual jurisdiction totals.

As of COB 5-14)

FEMA contracted Housing Inspectors are dispatched to the damage address to assess damages for eligible registrations.

Inspections Issued, to date	1,066
Inspections Returned to FEMA	1,052
Inspections Outstanding	13
Inspectors in the Field	2
Turnaround Time	1.02

Individuals and Households Program (IHP) Overview:
(As of **COB 5-14**)

IHP is the premier federal grant program for Individual Assistance administered by FEMA and the Commonwealth. It is comprised of two components: Housing Assistance and Other Needs Assistance as listed below. The maximum grant that can be awarded is \$25,000.00 shared between the programs two components on a first come first served basis.

Housing Assistance (HA): 100% Federal funded grants

A \$5,000.00 limit exists on grants for “housing repairs”.

Eligibility Rate	72%
Amount Approved	1,060,347.00
Amount Disbursed	\$1,053,916.00
Referrals	1,041
Approved	740
Ineligible	247
Withdrawn	38
Pending HA Categories	16

Other Needs Assistance (ONA): (75% Federal and 25% State funded Grants) Processing of referred applications to Other Needs Assistance has begun. Payments began Tuesday, April 29, 2003.

Eligibility Rate	46%
Amount Approved	\$728,697.00
Amount Disbursed	\$326,897.00
Referrals	450
Approved	191
Ineligible	217
Withdrawn	10
Pending ONA Categories	32

A decision briefing paper on funding is to be presented to the governor today, May 15.

Small Business Administration: 100% Federal funded low interest loans
(As of COB 5-14)

Home Applications Issued	508
Business Applications Issued	61
Total Applications Issued	569
Total Applications Approved	49
Total Applications Pending	5
Total Amount Approved	\$461,100.00

B. Public Assistance (PA):

STATE CONTACT: Bob Andersen, 434-832-8506

- Applicants Briefings for Flood Add-Ons: *Completed*
- Applicants Briefings for Snow Declaration Add-Ons in Northern Virginia *was* conducted May 12, 2003 in the VDOT Residency Office in Culpeper, VA. *Completed.*

<i>Requests for Public Assistance</i>	<i>67</i>
<i>Project Worksheets Obligated</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>PW Funds Approved</i>	<i>\$624, 132.47</i>
<i>PW Funds Paid</i>	<i>\$0</i>

- *Kick Off Meetings completed for the following localities:*

Henry County and City of Martinsville – May 1, 2003- 10:30 a.m.

City of Roanoke – May 8, 2003 – 11:30 a.m.

VA Polytechnic Institute – VA Tech – May 9, 2003 – 9:00 a.m.

City of Danville – May 12, 2003 – 10:00 a.m.

City of Salem – May 12, 2003 – 9:00 a.m.

Craig County - (VDOT only) – May 13, 2003 – 10:00 a.m.

- *Kick Off Meetings scheduled for the following locality.*

Montgomery County – May 16, 2003 – 10:30 a.m.

C. Hazard Mitigation (HM):

STATE CONTACT: Richard Dameron, 804-897-6500, Ext. 6525

- *Managing state Hazard Mitigation operations from VDEM HQ in Richmond.*

D. Public Affairs (PAO):

STATE CONTACT: Dawn Eischen, 804-897-6510

- Managing state Public Affairs operations from VDEM HQ in Richmond.

E. Legislative Liaison:

STATE CONTACT: Arthur Warren, 804-897-6500 Ext 6587

- *Managing state Legislative Liaison from VDEM HQ in Richmond.*

F. Information and Planning

STATE CONTACT: Warren Theis, 434-832-8456

- Lessons Learned session *was* held on May 9, 2003. Memo for record prepared to describe directed actions. *Draft forwarded to Mr. H Colestock for review.*
- State sitreps to be prepared on May 22 and 29, 2003.

G. Deputy State Coordinating Officer:

STATE CONTACT: *Mary Camp, 434 832-8560*

- Current State staffing level at the DFO for today is *16* including field staffing.

(s) Harry E. Colestock III

Michael M. Cline, SCO

WAT 05/15/03, 1300